

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 IO-14 ACDA-19

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P R 211230Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0996

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

USLO PEKING

USUN NEW YORK 0597

UNCLAS SAIGON 00945

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, CH, VS

SUBJECT: PRC-GVN CLASH IN PARACELS

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A NOTE WE RECEIVED JANUARY 21 FROM THE
GVN MFA ADDRESSED TO THE PARTIES TO THE ACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM SIGNED PARIS, MARCH 23, 1973:

QUOTE: THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
VIET-NAM PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE PARTIES TO THE
ACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIET-NAM SIGNED IN
PARIS ON MARCH 2ND, 1973, AND HAS THE HONOUR TO DRAW THE
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PARTICULAR ATTENTION OF THE PARTIES TO THE GRAVE SITUATION

WHICH IS TAKING PLACE ON THE ISLANDS OF PARACELS, OFF THE SHORE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM. PARA ON JANUARY 16TH, 1974, IN REPLY TO A CLAIM BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM FORMALLY PUBLISHED A STATEMENT WHICH CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THE TWO GROUPS OF ISLANDS KNOWN AS THE PARACELS ARCHIPELAGO AND THE SPRATLEY ARCHIPELAGO FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM, NOT ONLY BY GEOGRAPHICAL PROPINQUITY, BUT ALSO ON THE BASIS OF A CONTINUOUS AND PEACEFUL DISPLAY OF STATE AUTHORITY DURING A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. THE STATEMENT WAS TO REAFFIRM THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM ON THESE ARCHIPELAGOES. PARA THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IMMEDIATELY RESORTED TO MILITARY ACTION, BTROOPS ON THE PARACELS ISLANDS. ON JANUARY 19TH, 1974, AT 0829 HOURS, CHINESE TROOPS OPENED FIRE ON THE VIETNAMESE TROOPS ON THE ISLAND OF QUANG-HOA (ALSO KNOWN AS DUNCAN ISLAND). AT THE SAME TIME, COMMUNIST CHINESE VESSELS ENGAGED VIETNAMESE VESSELS STATIONED IN THE AREA, CAUSING HEAVY CASUALTIES AND MATERIAL DAMAGES. ON JANUARY 20TH, 1974, COMMUNIST CHINESE WARPLANES WHICH HAD BEEN OVERFLYING THE AREA ON PREVIOUS DAYS, JOINED THE ACTION AND BOMBED VIETNAMESE POSITIONS ON THE ISLANDS OF HOANG SA (PATTLE) CAM TUYEN (ROBERT) AND VINH LAC (MONEY). BY THE EVENING OF JANUARY 20TH, 1974, CHINESE TROOPS HAVE LANDED ON ALL THE ISLANDS OF THE HOANG SA ARCHIPELAGO, AND THE CHINESE NAVAL TASK-FORCE SEEMED PREPARED TO HEAD FOR THE TRUONG SA (SPRATLEY) ARCHIPELAGO. PARA IT IS CLEAR FROM THESE DEVELOPMENTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS DELIBERATELY RESORTING TO THE USE OF FORCE AS A MEANS OF ACQUIRING TERRITORIES, WHICH IS A GROSS VIOLATION OF THE COMMONLY ACCEPTED PRINCIPLES OF THE LAW OF NATIONS, THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE AGREEMENT TO END THE WAR AND RESTORE PEACE IN VIET-NAM SIGNED IN PARIS ON JANUARY 27TH, 1973 AND THE ACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIET-NAM SIGNED AT PARIS ON MARCH 2ND, 1973. PARA THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM WISHES TO CALL THE PARTICULAR ATTENTION OF THE PARTIES TO ARTICLE 1 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND ARTICLE 4 OF THE ACT OF THE PARIS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, WHICH BOTH SOLEMNLY

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RECOGNIZE THAT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF VIET-NAM MUST BE STRICTLY RESPECTED BY ALL STATES AND ESPECIALLY BY THE SIGNATORIES OF THE FINAL ACT. PARA IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM APPEALS TO THE PARTIES, IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC AREA, TO TAKE ALL MEASURES WHICH THE PARTIES DEEM APPROPRIATE AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE 7 OF THE ACT OF THE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIET-NAM. PARA THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM AVAILS
ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE PARTIES TO
THE ACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIET-NAM,
THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. UNQUOTE
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